

# Indiana House of Representatives

## News and Information

*Media Office  
Democratic Caucus  
John Schorg, Director  
Statehouse, Room 157  
Indianapolis, Indiana 46204  
1-800-382-9842 or 1-317-232-9621  
Fax Number: 1-317-232-9792*

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### **BISCHOFF HELPS PRESERVE LOCAL RIVERBOAT REVENUES, BUT OTHER ATTACKS UNDER WAY**

INDIANAPOLIS – Thanks in part to the efforts of State Rep. Bob Bischoff (D-Lawrenceburg), one attempt to strip area communities of riverboat dollars has been turned aside, but Bischoff said he expects other attacks to take place before the 2005 legislative session concludes.

"After hearing the concerns of lawmakers on both sides of the aisle, Indiana House Speaker Brian Bosma (R-Indianapolis) has announced that he has stopped action on a proposal (Senate Bill 278) that would have taken more than \$120 million away from those areas across Indiana that receive direct support from riverboats," Bischoff said.

"If this proposal would have become law, many years of progress in the 68<sup>th</sup> District would have been halted, and I think it's safe to say that we would have taken some large steps backward," he continued.

"Thanks to the support we have received from area boats, we have seen such improvements as the new Ivy Tech State College in Lawrenceburg, better roads and bridges and added financial support for our schools," Bischoff noted. "It would have been a tragedy to see that support taken away."

However, Bischoff said a proposal was still alive in the Indiana Senate to take away around \$75 million in riverboat money from Dearborn, Ohio and Switzerland Counties and other locations with boats.

"That money would be used to help balance the biennial state budget that is under consideration in the Senate," Bischoff said. "I have a number of problems with the budget as it now stands. It does not provide enough funding for local schools, and it contains several maneuvers that certainly will lead to local property tax increases.

"However, I do not think it is right for the Senate to try to balance this budget on the backs of a select few counties in Indiana," he continued. "Riverboats have generated many benefits for Indiana, and I think it is wrong to use the proceeds to pass a budget that will raise property taxes and short schools on funding or to use the proceeds to build a new stadium for the Indianapolis Colts."

Bischoff urged local residents to register their concerns with the Indiana Senate by calling the toll-free telephone number of 1-800-382-9467.

"I know that State Sen. Johnny Nugent (R-Lawrenceburg) is very concerned that area counties will lose this revenue and he is looking for ways to change this situation," Bischoff said. "Residents who want to keep our riverboat money from being taken away should contact him and register their support for his efforts."

This news release can be accessed on the Internet at [www.IN.gov/H68](http://www.IN.gov/H68)